

Testimony by Tom Swan
Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

March 7, 2017

In Support of SB 925

Senator Larson, Senator Kelly, Representative Scanlon and other members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). On behalf of our thousands of member families I want to thank you for raising SB 925 AAC Increases in the Cost of Prescription Drugs and Promoting Value-Based Insurance Designs.

Pharmaceutical drug costs are growing faster than any other part of the health care system and with the growth of high deductible health plans more and more of these costs are being passed onto patients.

We are all familiar with the price gouging practices of Martin Shkreli and the Mylan EpiPen scandal. Unfortunately, this type of behavior is all too common in this industry, along with other anti-patient practices like kick back to providers and legal games surrounding patents. We are confident that the legal action being led by Attorney General Jepson will show how generic drug makers are acting unethically and charging patient's exorbitant prices. Currently, over forty states are considering proposals to reign in the types of abusive practices that these bills could address.

We believe the proposals outlined in SB 925 are the most comprehensive approach currently under consideration this year and provide a good starting point to address out of control drug costs. We look forward to working with you to refine these proposals and protect consumers.

Thank